

*EXAMINATION OF SARAH GOOD,*

*MUTTERING WITCH*

[ MARCH 1, 1692 ]

I. nott; nott; 2. I say nott; 3. I say I had, in hurtang the children, no hande; 4. handless from leather hushh of sailing whip to splitting weil; nott with venom grain or poissonne rain have I afflicted them; nott with spell to nightmare hatch or yell of wildernass echoing; nor urin cake (yell-ow) tantalized by bake; nor with pins or penny nail stuck in flesh cloathes hideth; nor with backwerde rhyme in ears warmly whispered to scatter minde lik winde scatters finchas on a feld; nott with rot or rod or wood; 5. wasn't it god testad through plagues of water turned to blod; through plagues of frogges, lice, flyes; through plagues of livestock pestilance; through [...] boils; [...] plagues of hail; who was it tested us through plagues of locusts?; who was it gave us the exxam of plagues of darkness?; wasn't it he who flattened firstbornes?; wasn't it god that masoched?; 6. isn't it true that when the devell acts tis because god alloweth?; if he alloweth should we withstand him?; 7. I who was once held in god's knapsack of shining persons have fallen thru a frayed hol; 8. yet mine are two hands cleansed as an island bathd in rain; two hands scrubbed until raw; two hands by purity engraved; 9. still the devell lies, somehow, in the promontories, peering into us from cliff-edges, restang his chin on a rock; still he pummels us in god's embankment; still he is unshe athed through our unpunishments; take heed on he the headland; still the devell

froth dogge mouth; how tis my fault when he rideth forth, a  
cresting wave upon this beach of sinners?; I by some invisible  
hande pushed forthe; tis more licklely I beewicht than be a wi'ch.